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1211 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS
NEW YORK, NY 10036-8704
WWW.ROPESGRAY.COM

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To: Chris Kelley	U.S. Patent and Trademark Office	571-273-8300	

From: Gall C. Gotfried/Baaba Andam

Comments:

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Phone: 212-596-9472

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U.S. Patent Application No.: 09/821,005

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Filed: March 29, 2001

Our Docket: UV/189

Parties:

USPTO:	Justin E. Shepard Chris Kelley
Ropes & Gray:	Gall C. Gotfried (Rcp. No. 58,333) Baaba Andam (Ltd Recognition No. L0455)

PROPOSED TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION BY TELEPHONE

Independent claims 1 and 29 require predicting by the user equipment a time change associated with a program selected by a user to be recorded, wherein the predicted time change is based on time changes for previous programs related to the program.

The Examiner contends that Agnihotri discloses predicting by the user equipment a time change associated with a program (Office Action, page 2). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that Agnihotri does not show or suggest predicting a time change associated with a program as defined by applicants' claims 1 and 29. On the contrary, Agnihotri discusses generating one or more signatures to determine a start time and an end time of the program. Because the signatures provide an accurate determination of the actual start and end times of a program, Agnihotri does not show or suggest using the signatures to predict time changes. In particular, whereas predictions may be inaccurate, the signatures in Agnihotri provided accurate determinations of the start and end times.

The Examiner also argues that Inoue discloses predicted time change that is based on time changes for previous programs related to a program (Office Action, page 3). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully submit that Inoue does not show predicted time change is based on time changes for previous programs related to the program as defined by applicants' claims 1 and 29. Rather, Inoue discusses a system that detects and resolves recording conflicts based on additional information of scheduled programs. Detecting and resolving conflicts is not the same as predicting a time change of a

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program. In particular, the programs in Inoue are broadcast at the scheduled time with no time change but are in conflict with each other. Moreover, Inoue resolves conflicts for any programs that have overlapping broadcast times and does not predict time changes based on related programs.

Thus, contrary to the examiner's contention, the combination of Agnihotri and Inoue does not show or suggest all the features of applicants' claims 1 and 29. Accordingly, claims 1 and 29 and their respective dependent claims are allowable.